

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Waiver:

16 KAR 5:020. Request to Waive GPA Admission Requirement for a Candidate

Action Question:

Should the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) approve Murray State University's request to waive the grade point average (GPA) requirement for admission to a preparation program?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028, KRS 161.048, 16 KAR 5:020, 16 KAR 9:080

History/Background:

Existing Policy: 16 KAR 5:020 establishes the standards for admission to an educator preparation program that is required for certification. Section 1(3) requires a bachelor's degree or advanced degree awarded by a regionally accredited college or university with a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale; or a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on the last thirty hours of credit completed, including undergraduate and graduate coursework.

Summary: Murray State University has submitted a waiver request on behalf of a candidate for admission to an Option 6 Health and Physical Education program. Murray State University requests a waiver of Section 1(3) of 16 KAR 5:020 for the candidate as it relates to his GPA. The candidate does not meet the GPA requirements for admission to a program, but has been serving as a substitute teacher, emergency certified teacher, and a basketball coach in the Fulton Independent Schools. The district has expressed an intent to employ the candidate in a full-time teaching position if admitted to the program. The university and district both feel that this individual is a strong candidate. The university notes that the candidate would need to complete a minimum of 18 graduate hours to meet the GPA requirements. The candidate states that as a husband, father, full-time employee and coach, he believes that any coursework he takes at this point should be directly aligned with completing the Option 6 program. Murray State University is requesting a waiver of the GPA admission requirement to admit the candidate to the Option 6 program and allow him to be issued the temporary provisional certificate.

Budget Impact: There is no budgetary impact.

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